

SAF/LLZ (Legislative Research Team)

TIAHRT, Todd (Republican)
Representative, 4th District, Kansas
Elected 1994 to the 104th Congress
Reelected to succeeding Congresses



BACKGROUND

Born: Vermillion, South Dakota - 15 June 1951

Home: Goddard, Kansas

Marital status: Married (Vicki) - 3 children

Religion: Christian

Education: Evangel College, BA, 1975; Southwest Missouri State Univ, MBA, 1989

Military: None

Profession: Aerospace manager/project engineer. Worked for Boeing (1985-94) as a proposal manager on the Space Station, Air Force One, KC-135, B-52, B-1, B-2, YF-22 and Comanche helicopter. (Almanac of American Politics, 1998)

Political: Kansas State Senate, 1993-94. Defeated incumbent Rep Dan Glickman (D) in 1994 with 53% of the vote. Reelected in 2000 with 54% of the vote and in 2002 with 60.6%.

Rep Tiahrt is a conservative, who signed the GOP Contract With America, and is a voice for reform of the House. Has displayed an independent streak which sometimes places him at odds with the House GOP leadership. While in the state Senate, led the fight to refund taxes taken illegally on military retirees' pensions. Supported the line-item veto, term limits, a balanced-budget constitutional amendment and requirements that welfare recipients work. Opposes federal funding of abortion in any circumstances. Supports tax cuts and reduced federal spending. Is a B-2 supporter.

In the 104th Congress, supported report language prohibiting DoD from retiring any B-52Hs. Opposed sending troops into Bosnia. Is a member of the House's Conservative Action Team, founded to push a conservative agenda.

In the 105th Congress, left the Nat Sec & Sci Cmte and took a seat on Appropriations. Called upon DoD and the Veterans' Administration to give high priority to health problems and associated treatment for Persian Gulf war veterans. Cosponsored legislation directing separate gender military recruit training, and calling for US deployment of a theater missile defense system.

In the 106th Congress, citing allegations of Chinese espionage activity at Los Alamos lab, repeated his call for abolition of the Dept of Energy and the transfer of defense-related functions to DoD. Supported a bill providing for comprehensive reform of Veterans' Administration health care; faced media queries in January 2000 concerning allegations of employment discrimination against women; participated in a January 2000 welcoming ceremony at Wichita for the first Boeing 747 to be used for conversion to the airborne laser (ABL) platform and in February 2000 voiced concern about a proposed \$900M cut in funds for the program; supported the \$22M in milcon funds in the FY01 appropriations bill for McConnell projects - \$11M for hydrant fuel system, \$9.7M for a KC-135 Squadron Ops Building and \$1.6M for a B-1 Power Check Pad.

In the 107th Congress, successfully pressured, along with Sen Roberts, the Sec AF to keep the 184th Refueling Wing at McConnell. Criticized Boeing for threatening to shut down commercial ops if workers strike, Said such inflammatory remarks would hurt Boeing's contract negotiations, which would in turn hurt the tanker leasing program. Opposed DOD's proposal to cut the B-1B bomber fleet by 1/3. Said it made more economic sense to keep the bombers in Wichita.

Additional: Taught economics and personal finance at Kansas Newman College, 1982, and at

Evangel College. Boeing, General Dynamics, & Raytheon facilities are in his district, as well

Learjet, Cessna and Beech civilian aircraft firms. Member, Airpower Caucus.

AF Bases: McConnell AFB; Reserve Forces

COMMITTEES

APPROPRIATIONS -- Subcs on Defense; Legislative; Transportation and Treasury -VC